WELL, SHE WAS IN A GREAT DEAL OF TROUBLE
AND THEN...? WHAT HAPPENED TO HER NEXT?
SHALL WE GO OUT WALKING BY NIGHT?
<Second Half>

THIS IS THE ULTIMATE BEAUTY THAT I HAVE PURSUED ALL THESE YEARS...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, SAYOKO-SAN?
YES AND ...
YOU ARE THE FINAL COLOR, SAYOKO-SAN.
THEN... IT WAS YOU... YOU COMMITTED THOSE MURDERS FOR THIS PAINTING ...
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

夜に散歩しないかね〈後編〉

I THOUGHT WE HAD MORE TIME...! SAYOKO-SAN IS IN DANGER!

NO!

YOU MUST BE SPLIT WITH THE UTMOST PRECISION, YOU SEE.

PLEASE DO FORGIVE US... BUT WE HAVE REMOVED YOUR CLOTHING AND SECURED YOUR BODY IN PLACE.

YOU ARE TRULY BEAUTIFUL, SAYOKO-SAN

!

IT'S RATHER A TRICKY THING, THIS SPLITTING

SPLIT ...?

WHAT ON EARTH DO YOU MEAN? P-PLEASE, LET ME GO!

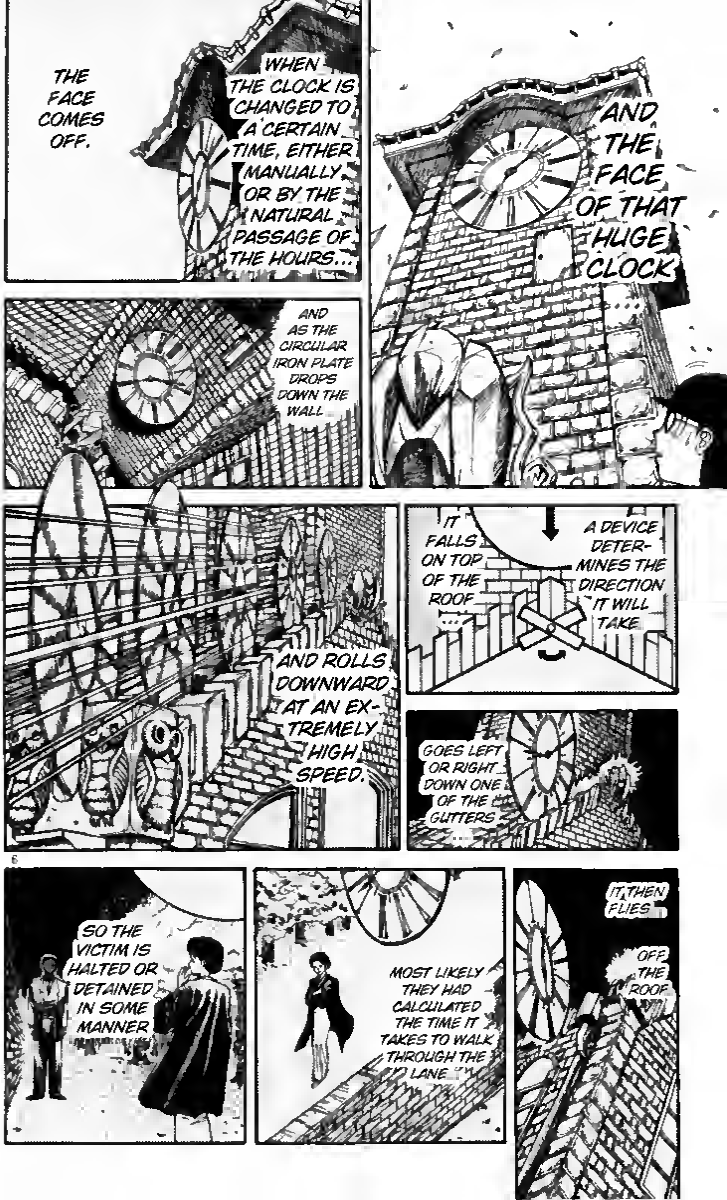
4 SFX: COUGH COUGH

YOU WILL BE CUT APART WHEN I PULL THIS CORD.

BUT IT WILL NOT HAPPEN TONIGHT. YOU WILL RETAIN YOUR LOVELY APPEARANCE SAYOKO-SAN.

IF THE SPOT WHERE THE WOMAN STANDS IS OFF BY EVEN THE SLIGHTEST BIT, THE SPLITTING WILL GO AWRY. IT'S BEEN VERY DIFFICULT FOR ME...

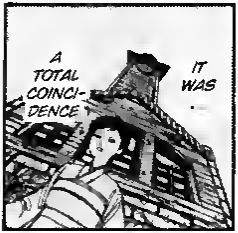
夜に散歩しないかね〈後編〉


THE FACE COMES OFF.
WHEN THE CLOCK IS CHANGED TO A CERTAIN TIME, EITHER MANUALLY OR BY THE NATURAL PASSAGE OF THE HOURS...
AND THE FACE OF THAT HUGE CLOCK
AND AS THE CIRCULAR IRON PLATE DROPS DOWN THE WALL
AND ROLLS DOWNWARD AT AN EXTREMELY HIGH SPEED.
IT FALLS ON TOP OF THE ROOF...
A DEVICE DETERMINES THE DIRECTION IT WILL TAKE.
GOES LEFT OR RIGHT DOWN ONE OF THE GUTTERS...
6
SO THE VICTIM IS HALTED OR DETAINED IN SOME MANNER
MOST LIKELY THEY HAD CALCULATED THE TIME IT TAKES TO WALK THROUGH THE LANE.
IT THEN FLIES OFF THE ROOF.

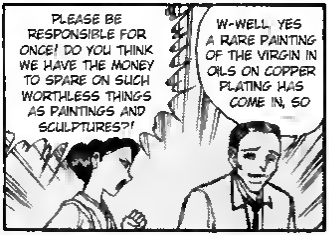
THE GROOVE BRANCHES IN THE MIDDLE
!
AND BISECTED!
THIS ENDS UP AT
THE SKYLIGHT!
MY WIFE REALLY WAS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN, YOU KNOW.
BUT SHE WAS ALWAYS SCOLDING ME FOR FORGETTING ABOUT MY WORK AND BUYING ART.
AND AT THOSE TIMES, HER FACE GREW HIDEOUSLY DISTORTED
RUINING THE LOVELY FEATURES WITH WHICH SHE WAS BORN.

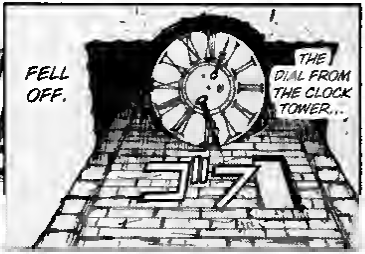
SPARE ME THIS TIRESOME ROUTINE! YOU'RE OFF TO THAT ANTIQUES DEALER AGAIN, AREN'T YOU?
OH NOWHERE IN PARTI-CULAR...
JUST WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, DEAR?

THIRTEEN YEARS AGO, ON A NIGHT MUCH LIKE THIS ONE...


A TOTAL COINCI-DENCE.
IT WAS.

WHAT-- W-WORTH-LESS...?

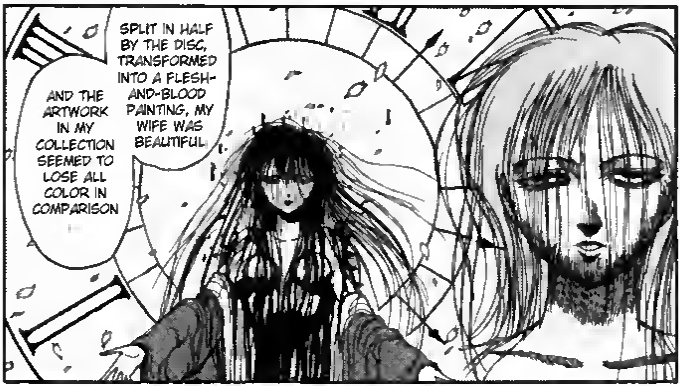

PLEASE BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ONCE! DO YOU THINK WE HAVE THE MONEY TO SPARE ON SUCH WORTHLESS THINGS AS PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES?!
W-WELL, YES A RARE PAINTING OF THE VIRGIN IN OILS ON COPPER PLATING HAS COME IN, SO

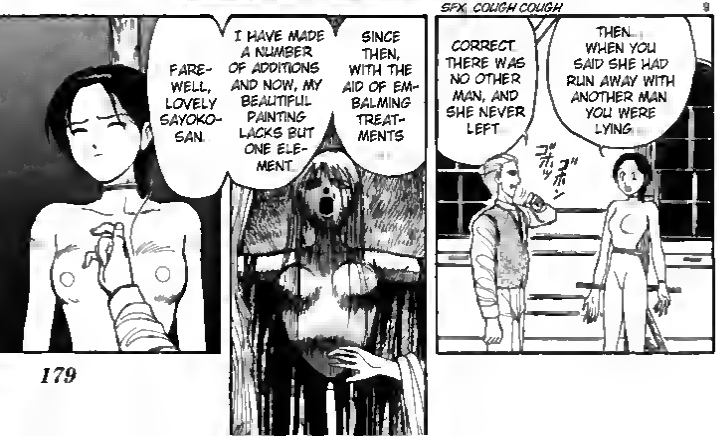

FELL OFF.
THE DIAL FROM THE CLOCK TOWER...
ゴーン

BROKE THROUGH THE GUTTERS AND CHANGED COURSE...

THE DIAL, WEATHER-BEATEN FROM YEARS OF NEGLECT...

...BUT WHEN THE SHOCK FADED, IT WAS REPLACED BY AN EXCITEMENT I FOUND MYSELF UNABLE TO REPRESS.
I WAS TERRIFIED!
A HUMAN BEING DIED HORRIBLY BEFORE MY VERY EYES!


AND THE ARTWORK IN MY COLLECTION SEEMED TO LOSE ALL COLOR IN COMPARISON
SPLIT IN HALF BY THE DISC, TRANSFORMED INTO A FLESH-AND-BLOOD PAINTING, MY WIFE WAS BEAUTIFUL.
SFX: COUGH COUGH
9


FARE-WELL, LOVELY SAYOKO-SAN.
I HAVE MADE A NUMBER OF ADDITIONS AND NOW, MY BEAUTIFUL PAINTING LACKS BUT ONE ELE-MENT.
SINCE THEN, WITH THE AID OF EM-BALMING TREAT-MENTS
CORRECT. THERE WAS NO OTHER MAN, AND SHE NEVER LEFT.
THEN... WHEN YOU SAID SHE HAD RUN AWAY WITH ANOTHER MAN YOU WERE LYING.
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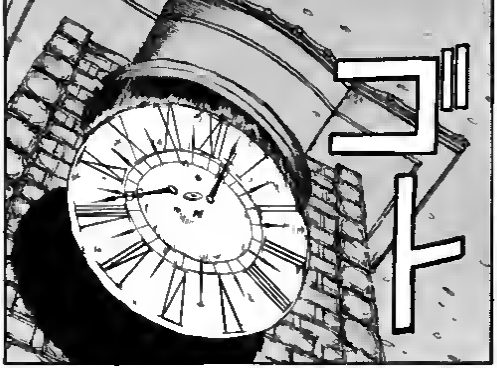
ゴボン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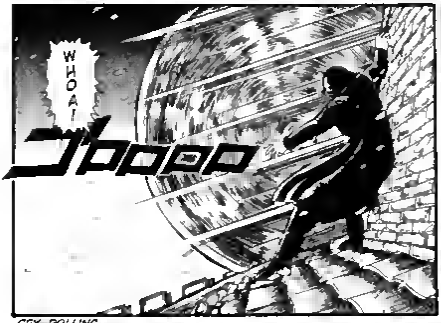
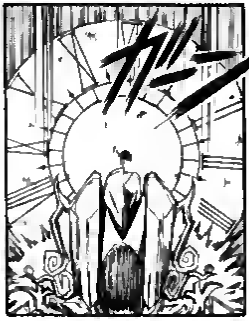
AND WELCOME TO MY PAINTING.


WHOA!
ゴDDDD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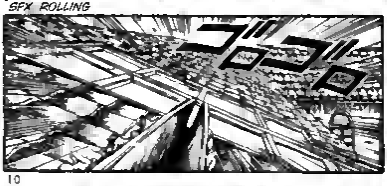
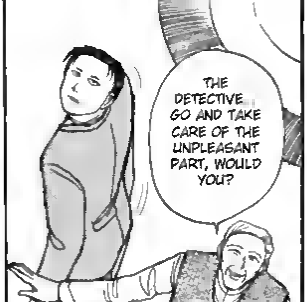
SFX: ROLLING


ゴロゴロ

HAHAHA! THAT'S RIGHT! FALL, DISC!
AAAAH!

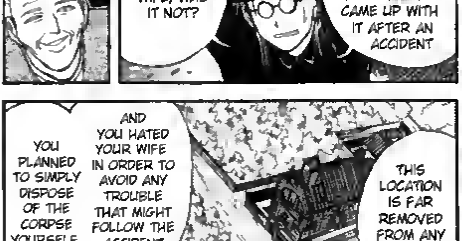
HAHA-HAHAHA-HA!!
COME TUMBLING DOWN AND COMPLETE MY PAINTING!
!?
WHAT'S WRONG? WHY ISN'T IT FALLING?!
HEH HEH
11
NAHIKI-SAN... YOU REALLY HAVE COME UP WITH SOMETHING INCREDIBLE HERE
OH...!
SA-KUYA-SAN...!

LISTEN, SAYOKO-SAN...
NO, HOLD ON. I'M HERE TO SERVE AS SAYOKO-SAN'S SECOND.


THE DETECTIVE GO AND TAKE CARE OF THE UNPLEASANT PART, WOULD YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT...

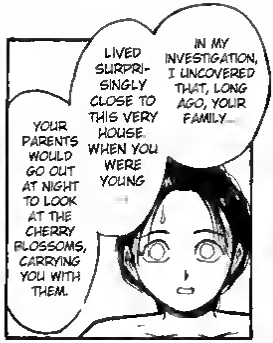
AND THE VICTIM OF THAT ACCIDENT WAS YOUR WIFE, WAS IT NOT?
NAHIKI-SAN, THE METHOD BY WHICH YOU COMMITED THE MURDERS TO CREATE THIS PAINTING... YOU CAME UP WITH IT AFTER AN ACCIDENT


YOU PLANNED TO SIMPLY DISPOSE OF THE CORPSE YOURSELF
AND YOU HATED YOUR WIFE IN ORDER TO AVOID ANY TROUBLE THAT MIGHT FOLLOW THE ACCIDENT
THIS LOCATION IS FAR REMOVED FROM ANY NEIGHBORS

AND YOU ROLLED AWAY THIS HEAVY IRON DISC...

THAT'S YOUR UNCLE'S WIFE.
THAT NIGHTMARE YOU HAVE ABOUT THE FRESHLY SEVERED HEAD...

AND SO THAT NIGHT, YOU WERE THERE TO SEE...


IN MY INVESTIGATION, I UNCOVERED THAT, LONG AGO, YOUR FAMILY... LIVED SURPRISINGLY CLOSE TO THIS VERY HOUSE. WHEN YOU WERE YOUNG... YOUR PARENTS WOULD GO OUT AT NIGHT TO LOOK AT THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, CARRYING YOU WITH THEM.

HIS WIFE'S HEAD! YOUR UNCLE ROLLING AWAY...

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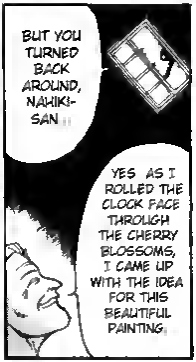
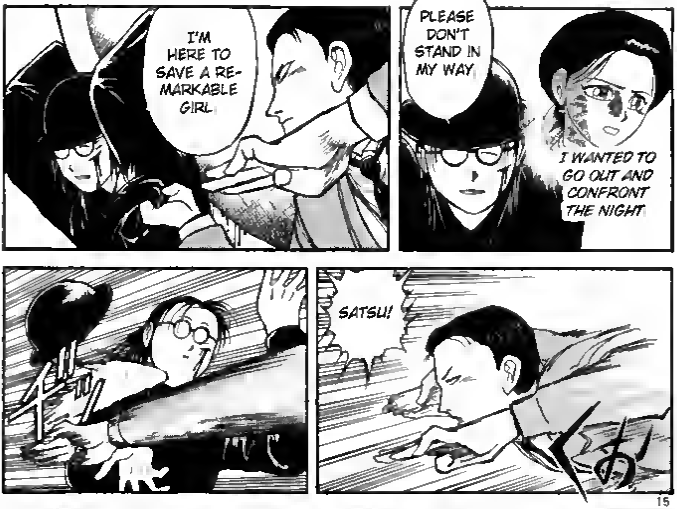
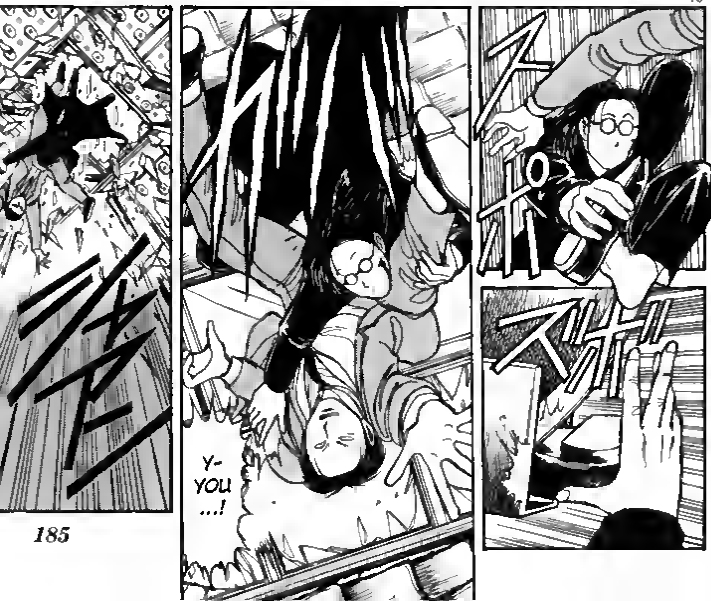

BUT YOU TURNED BACK AROUND, NAKIKI-SAN... YES AS I ROLLED THE CLOCK FACE THROUGH THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS, I CAME UP WITH THE IDEA FOR THIS BEAUTIFUL PAINTING.

IS THAT... WHAT HAP-PENED ...?

HEIR TO THE DOJO OF THE KURAI GEN-YA STYLE OF OLD-FASHIONED JUJUTSU
SAKUYA SHUUHEI.
WHAT REASON DOES A MAN OF YOUR STATURE HAVE TO BE [illegible] AROUND HERE PLAYING DETEC-TIVE?
WHY?
AND THE ONE WHO DEALT WITH THE CORPSES AND DID THE PHYSICAL WORK FROM THEN ON... THAT WAS YOU.
WELL, OF COURSE IT'S "OLD-FASHIONED"... CHANGING OUT THE OLD PARTS JUST LEAVES YOU WITH JUDO.
SO IT WAS YOU, MORIYA-SAN... MASTER OF THE SHIGETSU ISSHIN STYLE.
WHY ARE YOU HELPING THIS TERRIBLE MURDERER?
FOR MONEY?
I LIKE BLOOD.
AND BECAUSE OF YOU
STOPPING THAT DISC... I'M NOT GETTING TO SEE ANY.
クイ


I'M HERE TO SAVE A REMARKABLE GIRL
PLEASE DON'T STAND IN MY WAY
I WANTED TO GO OUT AND CONFRONT THE NIGHT
SATSU!
15


Y-YOU ...!

KUKUKU!
YOU'LL BE SAFE IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS
SAKUYA-SAN!
BUT, YOU KNOW, LITTLE GIRL HE'S NOT SUCH A FINE MAN AS YOU MIGHT THINK
AREN'T YOU JUST THE PICTURE OF THE NOBLE HERO SAKUYA?

HE WAS KNOWN AS THE DEMON OF STRIKING TECHNIQUES FROM THE KURAI GENYA SCHOOL
IN THE FORBIDDEN UNDERGROUND JUJUTSU MATCHES, I SAW A MAN WHO SENT EIGHT OF HIS OPPONENTS DOWN TO HELL
SA-YOKO-SAN WILL DIE
IF I LOSE HERE
IF YOU HAVE THE CHOICE, IT'S REALLY MORE FUN TO SEE THE BLOOD OF SOMEONE YOU'VE KILLED YOURSELF
I KNOW SOME SIMILAR TRICKS. I'VE WANTED TO TAKE YOU ON EVER SINCE THEN

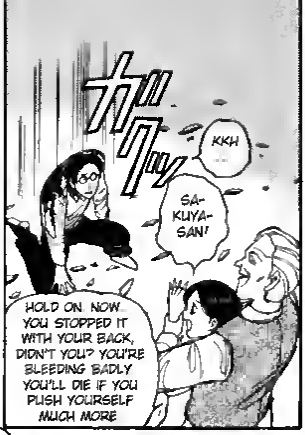
PLEASE CLOSE YOUR EYES
SAYOKO-SAN
COME ON!

ぱし

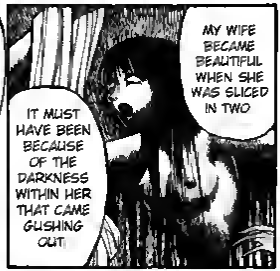
YOU ARE... STR--
ゴフッ
YOU SAID YOU LIKED BLOOD?
YOU AND I...
ARE THE SAME.
IN JUST A MOMENT IT'LL COME FALLING DOWN!
ガラ
FUFU SEEMS YOU DIDN'T STOP IT COMPLETELY
AAH!
SHE'S NOT GOING ANYWHERE!

夜に散歩しないかね〈後編〉

A PERSON'S INNER NATURE REALLY IS AS MUCH A MYSTERY AS THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT.
BUT... I THOUGHT YOU WERE A DETECTIVE, AND IT TURNS OUT YOU'RE A KILLER...?


KKH
SA-KUYA-SAN!
HOLD ON NOW. YOU STOPPED IT WITH YOUR BACK, DIDN'T YOU? YOU'RE BLEEDING BADLY. YOU'LL DIE IF YOU PUSH YOURSELF MUCH MORE

SFX: COUGH


MY WIFE BECAME BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE WAS SLICED IN TWO.
IT MUST HAVE BEEN BECAUSE OF THE DARKNESS WITHIN HER THAT CAME GUSHING OUT.

YOU MAY USE ME FOR YOUR PAINTING IF YOU WISH.
AND WHEN YOU DECIDE TO DRIVE YOUR DARKER SELF AWAY, THAT IS WHEN YOU BECOME BEAUTIFUL.

THAT DARKNESS IS SOMETHING THAT WE ALL HAVE WITHIN OUR SELVES. EVERYBODY LIVES WITH IT BY THEIR SIDE.
NO MATTER WHAT COLOR IT MAY BE...

WHAT WERE YOU HOPING TO DRAW USING CORPSES AND YOUR OWN DARKNESS?
POOR UNCLE NAHIKI
THAT PAINTING OF UNLIVING WOMEN COATED IN BLOOD IS HIDEOUS
BUT I WILL NOT BE BEAUTIFUL WHEN I AM DEAD.

20

I... I...
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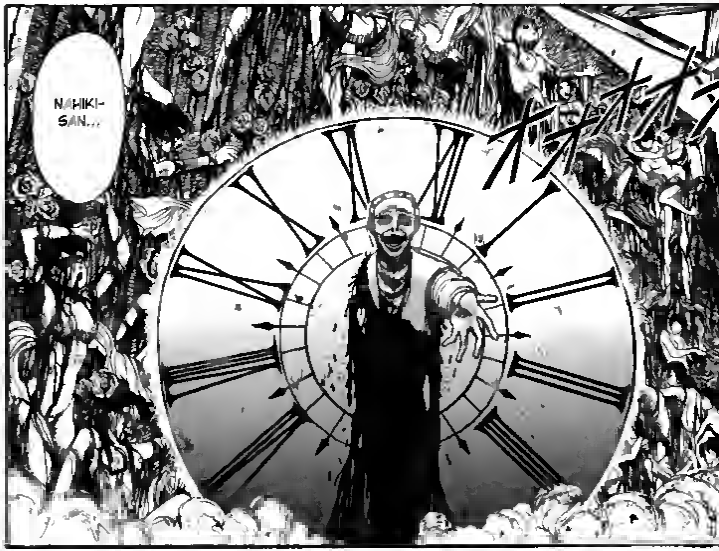
S-STAY BACK! OR SHE...

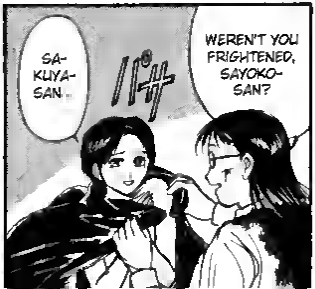
YOU SHOULDN'T PULL OTHER PEOPLE INTO YOUR OWN NIGHT.

AH...

WHAT COLOR IS YOUR OWN DARKNESS...?
SO...

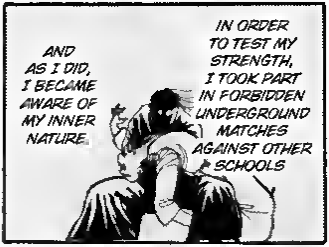

NAHIKI-SAN...

YOU ARE REMAR-KABLE.

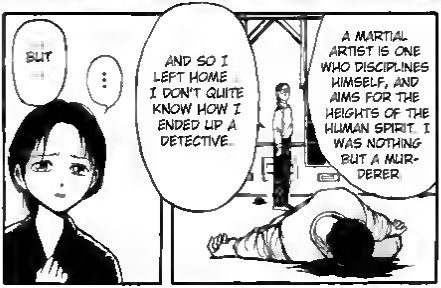

SA-KUYA-SAN.
WEREN'T YOU FRIGHTENED, SAYOKO-SAN?

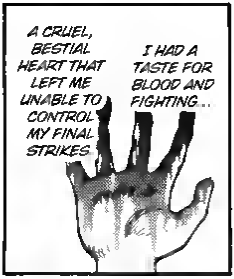
I... WAS BORN AND RAISED THE HEIR TO AN UTTERLY OUTDATED STYLE OF MARTIAL ARTS
EVER SINCE I CAN REMEMBER, I STUDIED HOW TO FIGHT AND DEFEAT MY OPPONENTS
BUT HOW DID THAT TURN OUT?

S-SO ARE YOU, SAKUYA-SAN
HAHAHA! OH, NO... I'M NO GOOD


IN ORDER TO TEST MY STRENGTH, I TOOK PART IN FORBIDDEN UNDERGROUND MATCHES AGAINST OTHER SCHOOLS
AND AS I DID, I BECAME AWARE OF MY INNER NATURE.

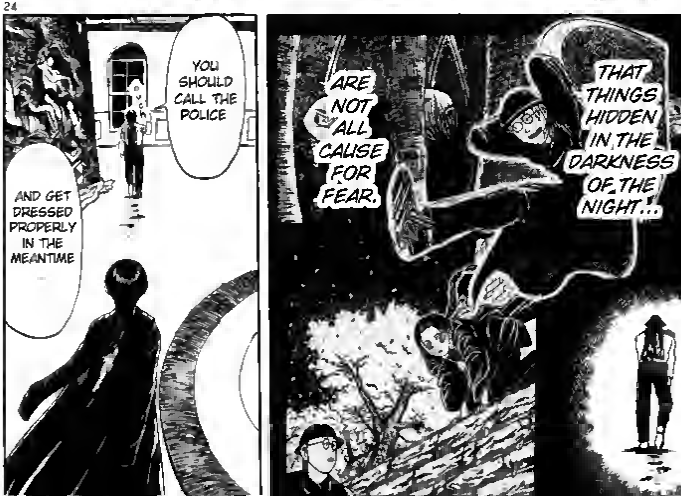
AND...
I DID INDEED GROW STRONG.


BUT...
...
AND SO I LEFT HOME... I DON'T QUITE KNOW HOW I ENDED UP A DETECTIVE...
A MARTIAL ARTIST IS ONE WHO DISCIPLINES HIMSELF, AND AIMS FOR THE HEIGHTS OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT. I WAS NOTHING BUT A MURDERER.

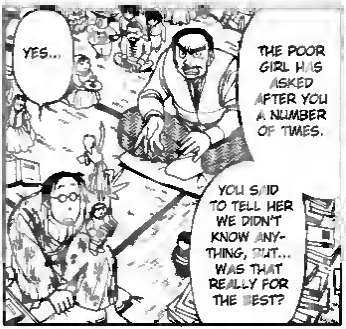

A CRUEL, BESTIAL HEART THAT LEFT ME UNABLE TO CONTROL MY FINAL STRIKES.
I HAD A TASTE FOR BLOOD AND FIGHTING...

TO THINK THAT A MAN SUCH AS MYSELF WOULD HAVE THE CHANCE TO SERVE AS SECOND FOR A REMARKABLE GIRL LIKE YOU...
THIS WAS A NICE NIGHT

ALL I DO IS RUN FROM IT
YOU SAID THAT WE ALL LIVE WITH THE DARKNESS IN OUR HEARTS ?
SAKUYA-SAN, YOU...
YOU... YOU TAUGHT ME...
SA-KUYA-SAN...
THAT ISN'T TRUE...


YOU SHOULD CALL THE POLICE
AND GET DRESSED PROPERLY IN THE MEANTIME...
ARE NOT ALL CAUSE FOR FEAR.
THAT THINGS HIDDEN IN THE DARKNESS OF THE NIGHT...

AHH... WHAT A NICE NIGHT.

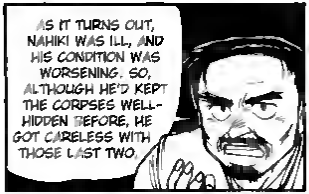

YES...
THE POOR GIRL HAS ASKED AFTER YOU A NUMBER OF TIMES.
YOU SAID TO TELL HER WE DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING, BUT... WAS THAT REALLY FOR THE BEST?

YOU DIDN'T JUST LEAVE THEN, DID YOU?
WELL, YES.

I KNEW IT...! YOU RASCAL, YOU!

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! A WONDERFUL GIRL LIKE THAT COULD NEVER BE HAPPY MARRIED TO SOMEONE LIKE ME!
HA! THERE, YOU SAID IT YOURSELF!
AHHH...! I DID NOT! YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
ぱしっ

THIS WAS A TALE FROM THE TAISHOU ERA


AS IT TURNS OUT, NAHIKI WAS ILL, AND HIS CONDITION WAS WORSENING. SO, ALTHOUGH HE'D KEPT THE CORPSES WELL-HIDDEN BEFORE, HE GOT CARELESS WITH THOSE LAST TWO.

WHA... WH-WHA
I KNEW IT SHE'S STILL ON YOUR MIND.

UH-HUH

HEISEI ERA TOKYO —

ALL RIGHT, IT'S DONE!

SIGN: THUNDER MANSION

— WORK-PLACE OF A CERTAIN MANGA-KA

PHEW... THANKS FOR TELLING US ALL THESE STORIES

MANGAKA HAVE TO WORK DAY IN AND DAY OUT, SO WE DON'T OFTEN GET TO HEAR THIS KIND OF FUN STUFF.

Uh-huh

WELL, I'VE BEEN ENOUGH OF A BOTHER TO YOU.

NOT AT ALL! PLEASE DROP IN ANY TIME!

B-BUT THAT GIRL, SAYOKO-SAN... WHATEVER HAPPENED TO HER...?

THAT STORY...

WAS ONE THAT I HEARD FROM MY GRAND-MOTHER.

AHH... WHAT A NICE NIGHT.

H-HEY! SHUUICHI-SAN!

GOOD NIGHT.

ばたん

—藤田和日郎短編集〈夜の歌〉・完—

Shall We Go Out Walking by Night? • END

Fujita Kazuhiro's Short Stories: Night Songs • END

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To the Merry-Go-Round!: *Weekly Shounen Sunday* issue 45, 1988
Shall We Go Out Walking by Night?: *Weekly Shounen Sunday* issues 18-19, 1993

Title Lettering

Fujita Masahiko
(cover, *The Puppet Princess*, *Song of the Open Palm*)

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(no particular order, no honorifics)

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Thank you all very much!

NOTES:

 # *ch. 1, pg. 1:* Taishou Era: mid-1912 to the end of 1926, roughly the equivalent of the American Jazz Age in terms of the arts and the loosening of social mores
 # *ch. 1, pg. 7:* A "cafe" during this period would have been an important cultural hub for people with an eye towards modernity. A cafe hostess/waitress (女給, *jokyuu*) was essentially an archetype of the modern sexually liberated woman. In addition to the emotional labor performed by an average waitress, they provided or were expected to provide an erotic appeal that often extended into actual sexual favors.
#*ch. 1, pg. 12* The phrase Sayoko uses is for "the deepest darkness" is 闇の奥, *yami no oku* 奥, meaning the interior or inner part of something, is also used to refer to someone's wife (as *oku-san* or *oku-sama*), the implied meaning being "someone found inside of one's house." In this case, it ended up being both the deepest darkness *and* someone's wife in the darkness.
 # *ch. 1, pg 15* Meiji Era: mid-1868 to mid-1912
 # *ch. 2, pg. 16* "The striking demon." literally *datotsu-waza no oni* (打突技の鬼), the ogre of striking techniques. *datotsu* is a martial arts term for landing a hit

NAMES:

The *yo* in Sayoko (沙夜子) and the *ya* in Sakuya (削夜) are both written with the kanji for night (夜, *yoru*)
The *hiki* in Nahiki (那引) is written with a character that also appears in the phrases used for "taken in" (引き取られて, *hikitorarete*, ch. 1 pg. 4) and "turned back" (引き返した *hikikaeshita*, ch. 2 pg. 13)
The police officer Hakota (箱田) shares his surname with Hakota Yuuji, one of the assistants who worked with Fujita on these chapters
The *ya* in Kurai Genya (九来玄夜) is also written with the character for night *Gen* (玄) is a character meaning mysterious, deep, dark, etc., while *Kurai* is a homophone for 暗い dark. With the kanji that are used, the name might be interpreted as something like "the approaching ninth deep night".
Moriya's name (守屋) basically means "guard"

translation by funnuraba tumblr com

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